



Welcome to the ARC

Your Adventure Starts Here!

ARC (Gran Canaria-Saint Lucia) Information Pack ►►





Atlantic Rally for Cruisers: ARC 2021

From Las Palmas de Gran Canaria to Rodney Bay Marina, Saint Lucia.

Approx 2,800 nautical miles or 18-21 days at sea for a 12m (40') cruising boat.

The ARC is open to all monohulls between 8.23m (27') and 25.91m (85'), and or multihulls between 8.23m (27') and 18.29m (60") long. Larger boats, up to 32.1m (105ft) may join by invitation. Boats are put into different divisions depending upon their length, type, and the owner's preferred level of competition.

Competition

Most boats will choose to sail in the Cruising Division, with a rating calculated by World Cruising Club based upon the boat's dimensions. This provides a level of fun competition, while still allowing boats to use their engines in light winds. Larger boats and those that do not wish to have any element of competition can sail in the Open Division, with no results calculated or prizes awarded.

Serious racing boats can join the Racing Division to race under IRC handicap. No motoring is allowed in the Racing Division.

Requirements

We require all boats to have at least two people on board, and to carry specific safety and communications equipment. Click on [What you need](#) for full details.

The Route

Crossing the Atlantic from the Canaries to Saint Lucia usually allows boats make the most of the north east trade winds. In the trade winds, around 15-20 knots is usual, often accompanied by squalls of rain with higher winds around dusk.

Departing Europe in November means that most boats can escape the worsening winter weather, and the hurricane season will be finished by the time we arrive in Saint Lucia.

ARC 2021 Schedule

- 8 November 2021**
ARC Office opens in Las Palmas, and shore-side activities start
- 14 November 2021**
Last date for boat arrivals in Las Palmas
- 21 November 2021**
ARC starts! Cruising Division start at 1300
- 17 December 2021**
Saint Lucia finish line closes
- 18 December 2021**
ARC 2021 prize giving party in Saint Lucia



"I would like to take the opportunity to thank you and your team for a great event and most probably one of the best experiences in my life."

Max Klink, yacht *Caro* (GER)
ARC 2010 & 2013



Benefits of Joining the Rally

Most people join a World Cruising Club rally for the security and peace of mind of an organised event; for the camaraderie and friendship of a large group of like-minded people; and for the fun of sailing in a fleet of boats. It's as much fun for experienced sailors as for those new to ocean sailing.

Exclusive ARC Discounts

ARC participants benefit from a host of discounts and advice from World Cruising Club partners for a range of products and services. From clothing to insurance, charts to liferafts, and sails to satphones, the companies we work with know our rallies and requirements and will be happy to help you. Crews and their friends and family can also benefit from specially negotiated hotel rates in Las Palmas and Saint Lucia and discounts on flights.

Each year, approximately 20 marinas offer substantial discounts to ARC participants; an average 45ft boat can save in excess of 30% on their berthing fees by planning their sail from Northern Europe to the Canaries to utilise the discounts available. On arrival, several boats comment that they have saved well over the entry fee in marina discounts alone, as well as meeting fellow ARC crews along the way.

What do the entry fees include?

Before you even get to the start, we help with your preparations by providing a comprehensive Rally Handbook and rally newsletters, and we're here to answer your questions by phone or email.

In Las Palmas:

- Safety equipment inspection
- Seminars on useful cruising topics
- Safety demonstration with helicopter transfer, flares and liferaft
- Social activities every night
- ARC Children's Club week-long activities for kids aged 6-16
- Pre-departure skippers' briefing with weather information

At Sea:

- Daily weather forecast by email
- Tracking of yacht positions, including loan of a satellite tracker
- Daily radio net
- Website for publishing boat positions, blogs and photos

In Saint Lucia:

- Welcome on arrival with rum punch and fruit
- 1 days complimentary docking on arrival
- 10% discount on daily and weekly rates for subsequent stays at Rodney Bay Marina within one year
- Full social programme including prize giving ceremony
- Lectures on topics relating to cruising the Caribbean

Entry Fees

The entry fee is made up of a boat fee and a crew fee payable for each person onboard the boat.

Divisions I, III and IV, boats between:	ARC (£)
8.23 - 10.29m (27' - 33'9") LOA	1,000
10.3 - 13.29m (33'10" - 43'7") LOA	1,200
13.3 - 16.29m (43'8" - 53'5") LOA	1,400
16.3 - 18.29m (53'6" - 59'11") LOA	1,600
18.3 - 25.91m (60' - 85') LOA	2,300
25.92 - 32.1m (85ft1" - 105ft) LOA	2,500
Division V and VI	2,500
Multihulls (in Divisions IV & V): LOA + supplement of	250
Racing Division II: LOA + supplement of	250
Crew fee (each person over 16 years old)	150
Crew fee for children aged 6-16 (under 6 go free)	100



"The level of support was pitched perfectly and the quiet way that the team organised the rally was superbly efficient. The fantastic camaraderie of the participants added a rich element to our first transatlantic experience."

Chris Russell, yacht Associate3,
ARC 2017



How to Join the Rally

To enter, all you need to do is to complete an entry form and pay your boat fee online at www.worldcruising.com/booking. You can also opt to pay by bank transfer.

What happens next?

After you have completed your entry and paid your boat fee, we will send you a confirmation email and receipt.

We will mail out your Rally Handbook in Spring 2021, or if you have transferred you will have access to the electronic version so that you can start preparing for the rally, and we'll encourage you to start using the Members' Area of the website to update your boat and crew information. You'll begin receiving the rally newsletters which are packed with useful tips and reminders.

ARC 2021 entry schedule

Due to restrictions of docking space, the ARC has an upper entry limit of 225, after which we start a waiting list. In order to avoid disappointment, we recommend that entries should be made as soon as possible after entry opens.

September 2020

ARC 2021 Entry list opens online

30 June 2021

Last date for paying boat fees - 25% surcharge applies after this date

1 October 2021

Last date for paying crew fees - 25% surcharge applies after this date

Discounts for sailing south with ARC Portugal

Confirmed ARC participants benefit from one free crew space on [ARC Portugal 2021](#) (worth £525). The rally departs from Plymouth, UK in June and crosses the Bay of Biscay to Bayona, then cruises south in a series of day sails with stopovers in welcoming marinas along the way to finish in Marina de Lagos on the Algarve a little over three weeks later. [Click here to request an ARC Portugal information pack](#)

Refunds

If you enter then decide that you won't be able to take part in the rally, you can either choose a refund or to transfer to next year's rally.

Refunds are available on a sliding scale for withdrawals made in writing (by email). Boat fees, less the administration charge, are part refundable up to 12 weeks before the start date, and crew fees will be refunded if cancelled anytime before check-in.

Alternatively, you can choose to transfer your entry fees as a credit towards the next year's rally, less an administration charge of £250. Full details of our refund policy and other important information is available in our [General Conditions](#).



"From the moment we arrived in Las Palmas until departure from Rodney Bay we were looked after so well by the ARC team. It was a first class experience for all of us."

Nick Musgrave, yacht *Jasmine*
(GBR) ARC 2016



Equipment and Training

We take the safety of participants in all of our rallies very seriously. Over 500 boats sail in World Cruising Club rallies each year, representing more than 2000 people. The job of a rally organizer is to provide a safe framework for participants and to provide them with the information they need to make safe decisions for their boat and crew.

We require all of the rally boats to carry a minimum quantity and quality of safety and communications equipment, and to have undertaken training in using that equipment, heavy weather sailing techniques, and managing emergencies. Our team of experienced safety equipment inspectors will come onboard and check your equipment before the start of the rally, and of course, we're always happy to help new cruisers talk through decisions about safety and communications at sea.

Download a full copy of our [Safety Equipment Requirements](#) that provides details about the mandatory and recommended safety and communications gear, and about crew training.

Safety equipment

We expect the boat to carry a range of safety equipment that is fit for purpose and ready to use. Our requirements are based on the World Sailing standards, and include: an offshore liferaft with a more than 24 hour pack, 406MHz EPIRB, means of sending and receiving email at sea, AIS transponder and man-overboard equipment. We also require every person onboard to have an inflatable combined lifejacket-harness (PFD) with a spray hood, crotch strap and safety line as well as an AIS personal crew overboard beacon for each crew member.

Crew and crew training

Each boat has to have two people on board, including the captain. We need at least the captain and one other person on board to have undertaken training within the last 5 years on a range of topics including using the safety and communications equipment, heavy weather sailing techniques and managing emergencies.

The [World Sailing Offshore Personal Survival courses](#) are ideal.

Qualifying passage

Every ARC boat should reach Las Palmas under her own keel, or to have completed a qualifying passage of 500nm in the year before the start. This helps to identify any problems with the boat and equipment before the start of the rally.

Racing Division

In addition to the ARC requirements, boats in the Racing Division need to comply with [World Sailing Offshore Special Regulations Category 1](#), and must have a valid IRC certificate.

IRC certificates can be obtained from your [local IRC authority](#).



"We felt well being looked after by the ARC team before the start in Las Palmas, during the crossing and also in St. Lucia. It was a lot of fun participating and we would always recommend to join the ARC."

Sibylle Becher, yacht *ITHAKA*
(DEU) ARC 2018



Your Questions Answered

What is the minimum size of boat and crew? 8.23m (27') length overall (LOA) with at least two people on board.

How long will the rally take? For the ARC, the typical passage time for a 12m (40') cruising boat is 18 to 21 days, depending upon the weather conditions and your style of sailing.

What is the fastest crossing time? The current ARC course record is 8 days 6 hours, 29 minutes and 15 seconds, held by *Rambler 88*, Juan K. Canting Keel Maxi (George David, USA), set in ARC 2016.

When does the rally start? ARC 2021 starts on 21 November. For more information go to [About the rally](#)

What are the other route options? ARC Participants have a choice of routes on the rally. Boats can sail directly to Saint Lucia with ARC 2021 or via Cape Verde with [ARC+ 2021](#) to either Saint Lucia or St. Vincent. Each route has a different start date from Las Palmas, see the [Itinerary page](#) of the website, and the ARC+ Information Pack for more details.

Can I use my engine? Boats in the Cruising and Open Divisions may use their engines for propulsion, but Cruising Division boats must declare their engine hours for their results to be calculated. Boats in the Racing Division can only use their engine for charging the batteries, not for propulsion

What safety equipment do I need? We have a list of mandatory and recommended safety equipment that we will inspect on board the boat before the rally starts. For more information, go to [What you need](#)

What training should I do? We do recommend that the skipper and at least one of the crew have done some safety and communications equipment, heavy weather sailing and emergency management training within the last five years – see [What you need](#)

You can learn more about the rally and tips for preparing your boat and crew by attending one of our 2 hour [boat show forums](#), or [2 day residential seminars](#). We also have a number of handy videos on our [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#)

Do I need an SSB radio? No, but you must be able to send and receive email at sea with either an SSB and a pactor modem, or a satellite phone. [Click here for communications equipment advice](#)

Can I take my children? Families with children of all ages have sailed in the ARC, and we usually have around 30 children each year. We have special children's activities in Las Palmas for the ARC.

How do I find crew? Personal recommendations are the best way of finding crew, but you can also register on Ocean Crew Link www.OceanCrewLink.com to look for crew or respond to adverts.

What about visas? We will provide information about visas in the Rally Handbook, and the country information pages on www.noonsite.com are also helpful.

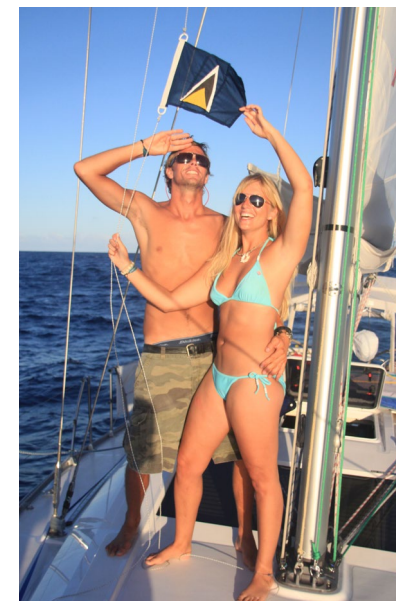
Can I take my pets? We have no restrictions on the animals you carry on your boat, but you must comply with the laws and regulations for your home country and any countries visited by the rally or during your cruising. We will provide advice in the Rally Handbook, or look up the country information on www.noonsite.com

How can I get back to Europe? You can join [ARC Europe](#), which leaves the Caribbean or east coast USA every May, and cruises to Bermuda and the Azores before reaching Portugal. You could ship your boat back on a yacht transporter, or you could arrange a delivery crew.

What about cruising after the ARC? If you want to join a rally, the [ARC USA](#) leaves Tortola BVI and sails for the Chesapeake Bay via Bermuda every May. A great way to start exploring east coast USA.

[World ARC](#) leaves Saint Lucia in January every year for a circumnavigation via Panama, the Pacific Islands, Australia, Lombok, Mauritius, South Africa and Brazil. The 'true adventure of a lifetime' with the WCC team on hand at every stopover.

What about getting down to Las Palmas? Join [ARC Portugal](#) and cruise south to Marina de Lagos. Also ARC boats get discounts in several marinas en route to Las Palmas. More information in your Rally Handbook.





Contacts

If you have any questions about joining the rally, the suitability of your boat, selecting equipment or any other issue please contact us:

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About World Cruising Club

World Cruising Club organises sailing events around the world. The rallies are devised for the 'average' cruising boat and crew; helping people to realise their dream of making a long offshore passage.

The company was formed by Jimmy Cornell following the success of very first ARC in 1986. Since Jimmy's retirement in 1998, the company has been run by Andrew Bishop.

World Cruising Club Rallies

ARC The original sailing rally has run every year since 1986 and over 200 yachts take part sailing from Gran Canaria to Saint Lucia. The ARC offers a two week pre-departure programme, fun competition for cruising sailors, or competitive racing, and a spectacular welcome.

ARC+ sails the Atlantic in November departing from Gran Canaria sailing via Cape Verde either to Saint Lucia, or St. Vincent.

World ARC The ultimate circumnavigation rally takes 15 months, departing from Saint Lucia in January sailing via Panama, Galapagos,

Pacific islands, Australia, Lombok, Cocos, Mauritius, South Africa and Brazil.

ARC Europe Explore the Atlantic Islands of Bermuda and the Azores, on passage from Tortola BVI or Chesapeake Bay bound for Lagos Portugal. Departs May 2022

ARC Caribbean 1500 North America's largest and longest-running rally. Departs the Chesapeake Bay for Tortola BVI every November.

ARC USA Sail from the Caribbean to Chesapeake Bay or Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Departs May 2022 from Tortola BVI.

ARC Portugal Cross the Bay of Biscay in company then day sailing to Marina de Lagos on Portugal's Algarve, exploring ashore and afloat. Much more than a delivery trip - a real holiday!

ARC Baltic This rally offers days cruising at sea, combined with an exploration of the Baltic's fascinating culture and history, will take you on a 1,500nm voyage of discovery through Europe's "east sea" including stops in Tallinn, St. Petersburg, Helsinki, and Stockholm.

Seminars and Forums

Helping you prepare for your offshore adventure is an important part of our role. We run a number of 2 hour panel Forums and 2 day intensive Seminars in locations across the UK, USA and Europe. For more information go to www.worldcruising.com/training

Cruising Websites



noonsite.com

The global resource for cruising sailors www.noonsite.com features essential information on all matters of interest to

sailors planning an offshore voyage - a one-stop website providing essential information on all maritime nations of the world.

Ocean Crew Link connects sailing crew looking for boats with boat owners looking for sailing crew. Specialising in opportunities for ocean sailing, OceanCrewLink.com is the ideal crew match service for all WCC rallies.



ARC Supporters and Sponsors

ARC 2021 is sponsored by the [Tourist Board of Gran Canaria](#), the Port Authority of Las Palmas, the [Saint Lucia Tourism Authority](#), IGY [Rodney Bay Marina](#) and is run in association with [Yachting World](#) magazine.